

Case 2872

XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 and QUEDIINI Kraatz, 1857 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over senior synonyms, and *Quedius* Stephens, 1829: proposed designation of *Staphylinus levicollis* Brullé, 1832 as the type species

Alfred F. Newton, Jr.

Field Museum of Natural History, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, U.S.A.

Abstract. The purpose of this application is the conservation of the staphylinid beetle family-group names XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 and QUEDIINI Kraatz, 1857, which have senior but unused synonyms. The type species of *Quedius* Stephens, 1829 has been cited as '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst, 1802' but this is not an available name for the relevant taxon and it is proposed that the valid nominal species *S. levicollis* Brullé, 1832 be designated as the type species in accordance with the current taxonomic usage.

1. Nordmann (1837) established several new names for 'familiae' in what is now the family STAPHYLINIDAE, including Platycnemidiformes (p. 6) for his new genus *Platycnemus* Nordmann, 1837 (p. 135; type species by monotypy *P. lateritius* Nordmann, 1837) and Agraeformes (p. 7) for his new genera *Agrodes* and *Araeocnemus*. Although these names do not have modern endings and were not formed from the correct stem according to the current Code, they are clearly latinized and based on a type genus (*Agrodes* was named after Agra ('ab Agra', p. 161), and the family name Agraeformes was apparently derived from the genitive of this (Agrae) rather than directly from *Agrodes*). Nordmann's family names must be considered available, but neither of them has been used subsequently as the valid name of a group (see Newton & Thayer, 1992, p. 25), although they were cited as junior synonyms by Handlirsch (1925, p. 573).

2. Kirby (1837, p. 88) established a new family name GYROHYPNIDAE for *Gyrophypnus* 'Kirb. Steph.' (actually Samouelle, 1819, p. 172). Problems with authorship and type species designations for *Gyrophypnus* were reviewed by Smetana (1979) and resolved in Opinion 1250 (BZN 40: 85-87; July 1983) where the genus and its type species were placed on Official Lists. Kirby's family name has not been used subsequently as valid, or even cited as a synonym (Newton & Thayer, 1992, p. 25). However, the name GYROHYPNINI was proposed independently by Hatch (1957, p. 233) as a replacement name for XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 (p. 626) when the type genus *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821 (p. 23) of the latter tribe was considered a junior objective synonym of *Gyrophypnus*. Hatch's use of GYROHYPNINI has not been followed by later authors (e.g. Arnett, 1963). The action of Opinion 1250 removed the objective synonymy of *Gyrophypnus* and *Xantholinus*, each of which is now considered a valid genus (e.g. Smetana, 1982).

3. Erichson (1839, p. 28) established the name XANTHOLININI for *Xantholinus* 'Dahl.' (actually Dejean, 1821) and several other genera. As with *Gyrophypnus*, problems with authorship and type species designations for *Xantholinus* were resolved in Opinion 1250. The name XANTHOLININI (or XANTHOLININAE) has been in universal use since the time of Erichson for a large tribe or subfamily of STAPHYLINIDAE (sometimes including subordinate tribes or subtribes) except for the single use of GYROHYPNINI by Hatch (1957) noted in para. 2 above. A list of 37 representative works illustrating usage of family-group names based on *Xantholinus* has been given to the Commission Secretariat. Among the more than 120 genus-group names currently included in the smallest family-group unit containing *Xantholinus* are *Gyrophypnus* and *Agrodes* (see paras. 1 and 2 above). *Agrodes* is currently treated as a subgenus of *Plochionocerus* Dejean, 1833 (e.g. Blackwelder, 1952, p. 42).

4. Kraatz ([1857], p. 473) established the family-group name Quediiformes for *Quedius* Stephens, 1829 (p. 22) and several other genera. The name QUEDIINI (or QUEDIINAE, QUEDIINA) has been in universal use since that time for a large tribe (or subfamily or subtribe) of STAPHYLINIDAE, sometimes including subordinate tribes or subtribes. A list of 37 representative works illustrating such usage has been given to the Commission Secretariat. Among the nearly 90 genus-group names currently included in the smallest family-group unit containing *Quedius* is *Platycnemus*, type genus of the older name PLATYCNEMINI Nordmann, 1837 (see para. 1 above). *Platycnemus* is currently treated as a junior subjective synonym of *Haematodes* Laporte, 1835 (e.g. Blackwelder, 1952, p. 312), which has not been used as the basis of a family-group name.

5. The composition of the tribe or subtribe QUEDIINI (-INA) has been undergoing revision and restriction in recent years (e.g. Smetana, 1977, 1984, 1988). The placement of *Haematodes* (or *Platycnemus*) has not been discussed in this connection, but examination of species of this genus indicates that *Haematodes* does not fit Smetana's restricted concept of QUEDIINI and may eventually be assigned to another named group of the subfamily STAPHYLININAE or form part of a new group. Most other currently recognized groups in the STAPHYLININAE also have younger names that would be threatened by addition of *Haematodes* (or *Platycnemus*) with its older but unused family-group name PLATYCNEMINI Nordmann, 1837 (see Newton & Thayer, 1992, pp. 64–66, for complete list of current names and dates). Stability of group names in the STAPHYLININAE will be served best if the name PLATYCNEMINI is not allowed to threaten any of the group names in current use in this subfamily, but is available as the name of a group containing *Haematodes* (see para. 4 above) and lacking other available names.

6. Questions about the publication date and type species designation for *Quedius*, type genus of the QUEDIINI, require resolution. Stephens (1829, p. 22) first used the name *Quedius* in a list, including under it 38 species names of which many are available names of earlier authors; inclusion of such names establishes availability of the generic name (Article 12b(5) of the Code). Although Blackwelder (1952, p. 335) and one or two later authors have cited this (1829) reference, most authors have continued to date *Quedius* from the formal description of the genus by Stephens (1832, p. 214). The earliest and generally accepted type species designation for *Quedius* was made by Curtis (1837, plate 638), who named the first-listed species of Stephens (1829), '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst', as type: Blackwelder (1952, p. 335)

documents later designations. '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst, 1802, p. 34' has been widely, and is currently, treated as a valid species of *Quedius* and cited as the type species of the genus (e.g. by Smetana, 1958, pp. 328, 362; Coiffait, 1978, pp. 9, 192). However, Gravenhorst (1802, p. 34) did not propose a new name *S. tristis* but referred his description under this name to '*Staphylinus tristis* Fabr. Syst. Ent. St. n. 21' (i.e. Fabricius, 1792, p. 524). This Fabricius name has long been placed as a synonym of *Staphylinus picipennis* Fabricius, 1792 (p. 521) or, in some recent works, used as the name of a 'variety' of *S. picipennis* (e.g. by Coiffait, 1974, p. 507). *Staphylinus* Linnaeus, 1758 and allied genera into which *S. picipennis* has often been moved are placed in the tribe (or subtribe) STAPHYLININI (-INA), whereas *Quedius* and its quoted type species '*S. tristis* Gravenhorst' is currently placed in the tribe (or subtribe) QUEDIINI (-INA). The problem of the unavailability of the name '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst' was noted by both Tottenham (1949) and Blackwelder (1952) but with different results. Tottenham (1949, p. 376) followed previous authors in considering *S. tristis* of Gravenhorst and of Fabricius as representing different taxa; as type species of *Quedius* he designated '*Staphylinus laevicollis* Brullé, 1832', a subjective synonym of '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst, 1802, nec Fabricius, 1792'. However, this designation does not meet the strict requirements of Article 69a(i) and (v) of the Code, since Stephens did not state that *S. tristis* Gravenhorst was a misidentification (cf. Article 70c) and *S. laevicollis* was not an originally included nominal species. In contrast, Blackwelder (1952, p. 335) cited *Staphylinus tristis* Fabricius, 1792 as type species of *Quedius*, without comment (and without change in the taxonomic status and placement of the genus), implicitly assuming that *S. tristis* of Gravenhorst and Fabricius represent the same taxon. Blackwelder's type species citation is formally valid but the consequential taxonomic assignment of the name *Quedius* would be at odds with the conclusions of all other authors that Gravenhorst misidentified *Staphylinus tristis* Fabricius and that the Fabricius species belongs in *Staphylinus* or an allied genus of the STAPHYLININI. In accordance with the Code (Articles 41, 65, 70) this case of a misidentified type species of a genus that is the type genus of a family-group taxon must be referred to the Commission. Stability in the application of the name *Quedius* at the generic and subgeneric levels, as well as application of the family-group name QUEDIINI, will be served best if an available name for the taxon '*Staphylinus tristis* Gravenhorst, 1802, nec Fabricius, 1792' is adopted for the type species. The oldest and therefore valid such name (e.g. Smetana, 1958, p. 362; Coiffait, 1978, p. 192) is the subjective synonym *Staphylinus levicollis* Brullé (1832, p. 131), previously selected as the type species of *Quedius* by Tottenham (1949, p. 376), as mentioned above. Brullé's name is generally spelled as the nomenclaturally equivalent *laevicollis* (see Article 58 of the Code). It is proposed here that the Commission use its plenary powers to set aside all other type designations for *Quedius* and designate *Staphylinus levicollis* Brullé as the type species in taxonomic agreement with the designation of Curtis (1837) mentioned above.

7. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

(1) to use its plenary powers:

- (a) to rule that the family-group name XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 is to be given precedence over the names AGRODINI Nordmann, 1837 and GYROHYPNINI Kirby, 1837;

- (b) to rule that the family-group name QUEDINI Kraatz, 1857 is to be given precedence over PLATYCNEMINI Nordmann, 1837;
 - (c) to rule that PLATYCNEMINI Nordmann, 1837 is not to be given priority over junior family-group names in general current usage in the STAPHYLININAE;
 - (d) to set aside all previous designations of type species for the nominal genus *Quedius* Stephens, 1829 and to designate *Staphylinus levicollis* Brullé, 1832 as the type species;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *Agrodes* Nordmann, 1837 (gender: neuter), type species by monotypy *Agrodes elegans* Nordmann, 1837;
 - (b) *Platycnemus* Nordmann, 1837 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Platycnemus lateritius* Nordmann, 1837;
 - (c) *Quedius* Stephens, 1829 (gender: masculine), type species by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(d) above *Staphylinus levicollis* Brullé, 1832;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) *elegans* Nordmann, 1837, as published in the binomen *Agrodes elegans* (specific name of the type species of *Agrodes* Nordmann, 1837);
 - (b) *lateritius* Nordmann, 1837, as published in the binomen *Platycnemus lateritius* (specific name of the type species of *Platycnemus* Nordmann, 1837);
 - (c) *levicollis* Brullé, 1832, as published in the binomen *Staphylinus levicollis* (specific name of the type species of *Quedius* Stephens, 1829);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) AGRODINI Nordmann, 1837 (type genus *Agrodes* Nordmann, 1837), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Agrodes* are not to be given priority over XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 and other family-group names based on *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821;
 - (b) XANTHOLININI Erichson, 1839 (type genus *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Xantholinus* are to be given precedence over those based on *Agrodes* Nordmann, 1837 or *Gyrohypnus* Samouelle, 1819;
 - (c) GYROHYPNINI Kirby, 1837 (type genus *Gyrohypnus* Samouelle, 1819), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Gyrohypnus* are not to be given priority over those based on *Xantholinus* Dejean, 1821);
 - (d) QUEDINI Kraatz, 1857 (type genus *Quedius* Stephens, 1829) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Quedius* are to be given precedence over those based on *Platycnemus* Nordmann, 1837;
 - (e) PLATYCNEMINI Nordmann, 1837 (type genus *Platycnemus* Nordmann, 1837) with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Platycnemus* are not to be given priority over over junior family-group names in general current usage in the STAPHYLININAE.

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